

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 18-27 are pending, in which claims 18, 20, 21, and 23 are currently amended, and claims 24-27 are newly presented. No new matter is introduced.

The final Office Action mailed October 3, 2005 rejected claims 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Huang* (US 6,194,988 B1).

To advance prosecution, independent claims 18 and 21 have been amended. Independent claim 18 now recites “disconnecting a **wire lead** coupled to a valve pin disposed within the valve stem from a terminal of a battery” and “connecting a **wire lead** coupled to a valve pin disposed within the replaced valve stem with a terminal of the battery.” Independent claim 21, as amended, recites “disconnecting a valve pin disposed within the valve stem assembly from a **wire lead** coupled to a terminal of a battery” and “connecting a valve pin disposed within the new valve stem assembly to the **wire lead** coupled to the terminal of the battery.”

By contrast, *Huang* cannot disclose use of wire leads in the manner claimed. *Huang* discloses with reference to the first embodiment that “[t]he air valve member 8 includes . . . [the] spring-loaded valve stem 80 . . . [which] includes a stem body 80a” while the “biasing member 8’ includes . . . [the] spring-loaded biasing stem 80’.” (col. 3, line 41-col. 4, line 26). As such, “[t]he biasing stem 80’ . . . acts on the stem body 80a [thereby enabling] . . . biasing stem 80’ [to be] in constant electrical contact with the stem body 80a.” (col. 4, lines 33-38). Furthermore, the “[f]irst and second **conductive wires 84, 85 are connected** electrically to the **biasing stem 80’** and the housing conductor of the **valve housing 7**, and are further connected electrically to the **pressure-sensing device 4** on the wheel rim 31.” (col. 4, lines 51-55).

With respect to the second embodiment, *Huang* discloses that “[u]nlike the previous embodiment, there is no biasing member 8’. Thus conductive wire 84 is connected directly to the stem body 80a of the valve stem 80.” (col. 6, lines 51-54). The remaining connections

between the conductive wires and the valve housing and pressuring-sensing device remain consistent with the first embodiment. (Figure 7). Therefore, with respect to *Huang's* second embodiment, although there is a conductive wire coupled to the stem body, the conductive wire is not coupled to the battery “since the battery housing 6 is disposed externally of the airtight chamber formed between the wheel rim 31 and the pneumatic tire” where the conductive wire connections reside. (col. 6, lines 54-58; Figure 1; Figure 7).

Thus, with respect to each of *Huang's* embodiments, there is no wire lead coupled to a valve pin that can be connected/disconnected from a terminal of a battery. As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed in a prior art reference, based on the foregoing, it is clear that *Huang* fails to anticipate amended independent claims 18 and 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges the indication that claims 18 and 21, along with claims 19, 20, 22, and 23 depending correspondingly therefrom, are allowable.

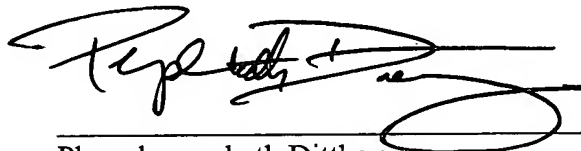
Turning now to newly added independent claim 24, this claim is directed to a valve stem apparatus, and recites “a valve pin coupled to a first terminal of a battery via a first wire lead; and a threaded connector coupled to a second terminal of a battery via a second wire lead, wherein the valve stem apparatus is replaced by disconnecting the first wire lead from the first terminal and the second wire lead from the second terminal.” These features are absent from *Huang*. Furthermore, newly added dependent claims 25-27 are allowable for their dependency on claim 24.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date



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